



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

"Opposition to this legislation means support for the status quo that is Obamacare. This is unsustainable and reckless."

"Many lawmakers in Congress have long promised their constituents they would repeal and replace Obamacare with a cost-effective, patient centered, sustainable alternative. By passing this legislation they can fulfill this commitment to voters."

-Americans for Tax Reform

"Yesterday's release of the House Republican Obamacare replacement package is a long awaited moment in Congress delivering on its promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act,

"The failed law's government-mandated approach to healthcare has significantly increased the cost of care, and as a result, has left nearly 1/3 of all U.S. counties with only one option for health insurance in the individual market. This is unacceptable."

– American Legislative Exchange Council

"The AHCA embraces a long-term goal of free market advocates: the creation of a tax credit that empowers consumers and families by putting them in charge of their health care decisions. This is an approach that has long been endorsed and supported by countless conservative Members of Congress, free market think tanks, and taxpayer advocacy organizations."

"The ACHA would also implement historically significant reforms such as a major expansion of Health Savings Accounts, an overhaul of Medicaid that puts the massive program on a budget for the first time ever, and a huge tax cut that saves taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars."

– National Taxpayers Union

“The American Health Care Act builds on more than two decades of work to improve health care for all Americans. It reflects the best ideas about how to lower costs and improve access within a patient-centered system. By focusing on you – the individual – Congress can improve care for all.

“President Trump is right that action is a necessity, not a choice. Obamacare is collapsing. Across America costs are skyrocketing while access and choices are disappearing. The House has seized this important opportunity to get health care reform right.”

-One Nation Health Coalition

“Millions of seniors were promised time and again by the Obama Administration that they could keep their health plans and they could keep their doctors. The last six years have proved those promises false, and millions of seniors have been forced off their health plans and out of their doctors’ offices...”

“AMAC has repeatedly called on Congress to repeal the Obama Administration’s failed health care law, and to put the power of health care choices back into the hands of patients...this bill lays the necessary foundation for more robust and necessary changes to repeal Obamacare in its entirety.”

– Association of Mature American Citizens

“NAW believes that our nation’s health care system is overly burdened by government mandates and taxes and that movement toward a more market-oriented, patient-centered system is the surest path toward higher quality, lower cost and enhanced access. This package represents real progress in this regard, strengthening our private, voluntary employment-based health benefits system which currently provides coverage to approximately 177 million Americans.”

– National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors

“Critically important provisions in the Recommendations repeal a substantial number of the most harmful provisions in the Affordable Care Act: the health insurance tax, the medical device tax, and the tax on prescription medications; restrictions on the use and limitations on contributions to health savings accounts and flexible spending accounts; and the penalties associated with the employer mandate.”

-U.S. Chamber of Commerce

“We believe AHCA includes a number of provisions that will enhance the ability of employers to offer benefits, reduce taxes that are passed on to health care purchasers and consumers, and prevent cost-shifting by stabilizing the individual markets.”

-ERIC, the ERISA Industry Committee

“The time to act is now. The American Health Care Act addresses the challenges immediately facing the Individual market and will ensure more affordable health plan choices for consumers in the short term, including through the expanded use of health savings accounts (HSAs).

-Anthem, Inc.

“We appreciate the work that the administration and Congress have undertaken so far to begin stabilizing the individual market, and we are very pleased that the House bill envisions providing a smooth transition for consumers in 2018 and 2019, including making coverage more affordable by eliminating the tax on health insurance policies,”

-Blue Cross Blue Shield

“The legislation’s continuous coverage requirements will improve affordability and better ensure a stable insurance market. We also support the flexibility for insurers to offer a broader range of plan options that will attract more consumers by meeting their needs and state of health. Consumers will be further empowered by the repeal of the tax increase on health savings accounts and the repeal of limitations on contributions to flexible spending accounts and health savings accounts.

-Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC)

“Repealing the [medical device] tax will provide medical technology innovators with the long-term certainty necessary to support future job growth and sustainable, cutting-edge R&D that will ultimately lead to the next generation of breakthroughs in patient care and treatment. We urge the House and Senate to act expeditiously to pass this important legislation.”

–Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)

“The ‘American Health Care Act’ repeals the medical device tax which will result in greater investments in medical cures, lower healthcare costs and more high-tech manufacturing jobs in communities across the United States.”

-Medical Device Manufacturers Association

“The National Business Group on Health appreciates your efforts to eliminate the ACA taxes on employer-sponsored coverage, enhance health accounts and ensure a smooth transition to alternative sources of coverage.”

-The National Business Group on Health

“The House bill recognizes the importance preserving the system of employer-provided health care benefits that 177 million Americans rely on. We are pleased the House delayed the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) onerous 40% tax on employee health benefits and did not cap the tax exclusion for those benefits.”

-HR Policy Association

“The ‘American Health Care Act’ wisely avoids a new tax on Americans with employer provided health benefits. We applaud that decision and we are also pleased the Cadillac Tax effective date is delayed through 2024”

-American Benefits Council

“CHPA strongly supports restoration of the ability for consumers to use their Flexible Spending Arrangements (FSAs) and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to purchase over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, and urges the Ways & Means Committee to advance this important measure.

“At a time when more and more Americans are exercising these vital HSA and FSA benefits, this is a common sense fix for many families who rely on non-prescription OTC medicines to treat common ailments such as allergies, cough and colds, or pain.”

-Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA)

“With today’s markups, further discussions about the future of our country’s health care begin in earnest...The ACC is encouraged by the widely-expressed commitment to guarantee access to affordable coverage options for patients with heart disease or other pre-existing medical conditions”

-American College of Cardiologists (ACC)

“The NAM believes legislative actions taken last week are a strong first step towards reforming a broken health care system. It is important that Congress continue this momentum to chart a new course and unlock the stranglehold of the ACA on manufacturers.”

-National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

PROVISIONS

ON THE MEDICAL DEVICE TAX:

“Repealing the [medical device] tax will provide medical technology innovators with the long-term certainty necessary to support future job growth and sustainable, cutting-edge R&D that will ultimately lead to the next generation of breakthroughs in patient care and treatment. We urge the House and Senate to act expeditiously to pass this important legislation.”

-AdvaMed

“MDMA thanks the House of Representatives for working to strengthen medical technology innovation by removing a major roadblock towards improving patient care. The “American Health Care Act” repeals the medical device tax which will result in greater investments in medical cures, lower healthcare costs and more high-tech manufacturing jobs in communities across the United States.”

-Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)

ON PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS:

“With today’s markups, further discussions about the future of our country’s health care begin in earnest...The ACC is encouraged by the widely-expressed commitment to guarantee access to affordable coverage options for patients with heart disease or other pre-existing medical conditions”

-American College of Cardiologists (ACC)

ON THE TRANSITION PERIOD:

“We appreciate the work that the administration and Congress have undertaken so far to begin stabilizing the individual market, and we are very pleased that the House bill envisions providing a smooth transition for consumers in 2018 and 2019, including making coverage more affordable by eliminating the tax on health insurance policies.”

-Blue Cross/Blue Shield

ON EXPANDING USE OF FSAS AND HSAS:

“CHPA strongly supports restoration of the ability for consumers to use their Flexible Spending Arrangements (FSAs) and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to purchase over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, and urges the Ways & Means Committee to advance this important measure.

“At a time when more and more Americans are exercising these vital HSA and FSA benefits, this is a common-sense fix for many families who rely on non-prescription OTC medicines to treat common ailments such as allergies, cough and colds, or pain.”

-Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA)

“Not only does the repeal bill abolish several taxes on HSAs, the law also contains several improvements. The plan expands the contribution limits for HSAs so they can now be relied on to cover more medical costs. The legislation also increases the flexibility of savings accounts by allowing spouses to make catch-up contributions to HSAs and allows HSAs to cover certain medical expenses incurred before the saving account has been established.”

-Americans for Tax Reform

ON REPEAL OF OBAMACARE TAXES AND MANDATES:

“Taxpayers should be particularly pleased to see that nearly all of the Obamacare tax increases will be repealed upon passage of this bill. Tax hikes like the health insurance tax, the ‘medicine cabinet’ tax, the medical device tax, and the prescription drug tax have all increased the cost of health care to the great detriment of consumers. Getting rid of all of these is a big victory for taxpayers. Additionally, the bill would scrap the egregious individual and employer mandates, which effectively act as taxes.”

-National Taxpayers Union

“The American Health Care Act...wisely avoids a new tax on Americans with employer provided health benefits,

“We applaud that decision and we are also pleased the Cadillac Tax effective date is delayed through 2024,”...The Council appreciates that the proposal zeroes-out the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) employer mandate penalties and we

will continue to work with Congress to ensure final legislation reduces employer reporting and other ACA burdens”

-American Benefits Council

“Obamacare imposed nearly 20 new or higher taxes that hit middle class families, raise the cost of healthcare, and reduce access to care in Obamacare. The law imposed a tax for failing to buy government-mandated insurance, a new tax on health insurance, a tax on medical devices, a tax on innovative medicines, taxes on Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Spending Accounts, and even a tax hike on Americans facing high medical bills.

“This legislation repeals all of these taxes. It also delays the Cadillac tax on employer provided insurance plans to 2025.

“Repealing these taxes will provide much needed relief to the paychecks of families across the country. Repealing Obamacare will also undo former President Barack Obama’s broken promise not to sign “any form of tax increase” on any middle class American family.”

-Americans for Tax Reform

“Critically important provisions in the Recommendations repeal a substantial number of the most harmful provisions in the Affordable Care Act: the health insurance tax, the medical device tax, and the tax on prescription medications; restrictions on the use and limitations on contributions to health savings accounts and flexible spending accounts; and the penalties associated with the employer mandate.

“Just as importantly, the Recommendations preserve the longstanding tax treatment of employer sponsored coverage through which 177 million individuals receive their health care coverage. The Chamber is also pleased that the House is proposing to delay the 40 percent Cadillac tax, and we look forward to working with Congress to eventually repeal the tax completely.”

-U.S Chamber of Commerce

“In particular, NAW members are pleased that the reconciliation recommendations include:

- Repeal of the employer mandate penalties*
- Repeal of the annual fee on health insurers (the “health insurance tax” or HIT”)*
- Repeal of the medical device tax*

- *Liberalized treatment of health savings accounts (HSA) and flexible spending accounts (FSA)*

NAW members also support the recommended delay until 2025 in the implementation of the 40% excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored coverage (the “Cadillac Tax”).”

-National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors

“AHCA includes a number of provisions that will enhance the ability of employers to offer benefits, reduce taxes that are passed on to health care purchasers and consumers, and prevent cost-shifting by stabilizing the individual markets. Some of the most critical components of the legislation include:

- *Repeal of the employer mandate, paving the way for Administrative action to eliminate the costly, pointless, and overly burdensome reporting requirements under ACA sections 6055 and 6056;*
- *Repeal of numerous taxes that raise the costs of health insurance and health care, such as the taxes on pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter medicines, and limitations on Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs);*
- *Expansion of and improvements to Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), especially increasing the annual HAS contribution limit to match the annual maximum out-of-pocket cost;*
- *Targeted funding and new flexibility for insurance rules in order to stabilize the individual markets; and*
- *Further delaying the Cadillac tax, with indications from staff that the intention is to fully repeal this toxic tax when the legislation is considered on the Senate floor.*

We applaud your efforts so far, and look forward to working with you to support the enactment of final legislation into law.”

-ERIC, The ERISA Industry Community

“AMAC stands behind several provisions within this bill—all of which cannot be enumerated in this short letter.

“First, this bill expands the capabilities and use of Health Savings Accounts (HSA) to meet the needs of a modernizing society and the needs of individuals and families.

“Second, the recommendations repeal both the individual and employer mandates which have unnecessarily cost Americans millions of dollars and stymied small businesses.

“Lastly, this bill does not “pull the rug out” from those currently on the Obamacare exchanges through its built-in protections for current beneficiaries.

“Given the constraints of the Reconciliation process, this bill seeks to offer versatility in health care funding mechanisms, relieve Americans from unnecessary taxation, and keep as many Americans insured as possible.”

-Association of Mature American Citizens